

FLOOD SURVIVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

To help reduce risks from flooding conditions, consider the following safety recommendations.

Before:

Install check valves to prevent backups.

Buy stoppers to plug showers, tubs, sinks, etc.

Buy plastic sheeting, sandbags, lumber and towels.

Fuel vehicles in case rapid evacuation becomes necessary.

Have extra cash, valuables, and important documents at hand in case of evacuation.

Monitor radio and television for local weather conditions. Have a battery-operated radio available.

Know a safe evacuation route wherever you are. Make it your business to figure a safe way out of any location you are in that is susceptible to flooding. Be prepared to move at a moment's notice.

Seek higher ground, if flooding is possible.

Keep children away from high water, storm drains, viaducts, and bridges.

Watch for signs of distant heavy rainfall, which may include gusty winds, static on your AM radio and lightning.

Check and assist neighbors who are elderly or have special needs.

Have carriers and restraints ready for pets in case of evacuation.

During:

Disconnect electrical and gas appliances.

Shut off building water main.

Bring outdoor possessions inside.

Move valuables and essential items to upper floors.

Stack sandbags away from the building.

Place pets on upper floors.

As a last resort, flood the basement with clean water to equalize water pressure on the outside basement walls and floors.

Help move the disabled and elderly to high ground/upper floors.

Evacuation: (WHEN NECESSARY)

Use recommended flood evacuation routes.

Keep vehicle radio on for news updates.

Watch for flooded bridges, viaducts, and low areas.

Abandon stalled vehicles immediately and move to higher ground.

If on foot and water rises above your ankles, quickly move to higher ground.
Do not attempt to drive through rapidly rising water. Two feet of water will carry away most automobiles. If caught on a flooded roadway, immediately abandon the vehicle and quickly climb to higher ground. Never drive through flooded roadways. The depth of water is not always obvious. The roadbed may be washed out under the water.
Assist the elderly and those who have disabilities.

After:

Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
If major structural damage is suspected or obvious, have qualified inspectors check the building before entering.
Use a flashlight to enter.
Sniff for gas.
Have an electrician check circuits.
Don't use flooded electrical appliances.
Don't drink water until it has been declared safe.
Pump out basement water slowly. Pump out about a third of the water daily.
Eat only food that has been in sealed containers.
Discard all food items that have come in contact with floodwaters.
Instruct children to never play around high water, storm drains, viaducts, and bridges.
Check on and help neighbors who are elderly or have disabilities.